



Sample Characteristics- 2001 Cohort

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This report describes the 2001 cohort of WorkFirst Study respondents and compares it with all people receiving TANF in October 2001. The study sample was drawn from the statewide list of adults receiving welfare assistance in October 2001 and interviewed between March and October of 2002.

There were 35,447 individuals receiving welfare assistance in Washington State in October 2001. Of this group, 1,004 individuals were interviewed for the 2001 (third) cohort.

This report describes the differences between three groups: the sample frame of all welfare recipients in October 2001, respondents in the third cohort, and the sample frame of all welfare recipients in October 2000 (the sample frame of the previous cohort).

Characteristics are from administrative records for welfare recipients as of October 2001.

FINDINGS

- Generally, the 2001 cohort sample is a good representation of all October 2001 welfare recipients.
- Certain ethnic minorities are underrepresented in the sample, including Blacks/African-Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders. The Vietnamese language is underrepresented as well. Some of

these differences are the result of limited translation capability.

- Male respondents are also slightly underrepresented in the sample.
- Sample respondents had a higher incidence of marriage, as well as divorce, than did all October 2001 welfare recipients.
- Survey respondents had slightly higher levels of unearned and earned income in October 2001.
- The October 2001 caseload contained a significantly lower percentage of continuing welfare recipients than the October 2000 caseload, and more repeat recipients.
- Compared to October 2001 sample respondents and the October 2000 caseload, a higher percentage of the October 2001 caseload have been sanctioned in the past.

FIGURES 1 AND 2: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE FRAME (2001), 2001 COHORT PARTICIPANTS, AND SAMPLE FRAME (2000)

	Sample Frame (2001) n=35,447	2001 Cohort n=1004	Sample Frame (2000) n=37,066
Family Size	3.05	3.14 *	3.07 *
Number of Children	1.87	1.91	1.91 *
Number of Adults	1.17	1.23 *	1.16 *
Age of Youngest Child	5.5	5.4	5.5
Respondent Age	30.0	30.1	30.1
Highest Grade Completed	11.1	11.5 *	11.1
Earned GED	11.3%	12.0%	12.1% *
Race			
White	65.8%	71.0% *	66.8% *
Black/African American	14.0%	9.8% *	13.1% *
Native American	5.4%	5.2%	5.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.1%	2.0% *	4.3%
Hispanic	13.1%	13.5%	12.0% *
Other	9.5%	10.0%	9.3%
Language			
English	91.0%	90.4%	90.7%
Russian	3.3%	7.7% *	3.3%
Vietnamese	1.1%	0.0% *	1.5% *
Spanish	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%
Other	2.9%	0.5% *	3.0%
Needs Interpreter	7.6%	8.5%	7.6%
Gender			
Male	11.1%	10.4%	10.3% *
Female	88.9%	89.6%	89.7% *
Marital Status			
Married	18.5%	21.9% *	18.3%
Single	5.8%	5.7%	6.9% *
Divorced	15.1%	16.3%	15.8% *
Never Married	48.0%	44.1% *	46.8% *
Citizenship			
Citizen	89.7%	89.1%	89.7%
Legal Immigrant	10.3%	10.9%	10.3%
Disability Type			
Disabled	4.7%	4.9%	2.4% *
Chemical Dependence	1.0%	0.5%	0.8% *
Mental or Physical Incapacity	2.0%	1.5%	2.1%
Needs Special Assistance	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Received Medicaid	98.3%	98.8%	98.7% *
* Value is significantly different from Sample Frame (2001) at p< 0.05			

	Sample Frame (2001) n=35,447	2001 Cohort n=1004	Sample Frame (2000) n=37,066
Welfare History			
Continuing Welfare Recipient	14.7%	13.8% *	15.5% *
New Welfare Recipient	6.9%	9.0% *	6.7%
Repeat Welfare Recipient	78.4%	77.2% *	77.9% *
Program Type			
Regular Parent	95.3%	95.5%	95.1%
Pregnant	4.7%	4.5%	4.9%
Sanctions			
Initial Sanction	2.8%	1.5% *	2.0% *
40% Sanction	3.3%	2.4%	2.5% *
Any WorkFirst Sanction	22.1%	16.4% *	18.1% *
WorkFirst Exemption Status	1.4%	1.5%	1.0% *
Number of Spans on WF	2.7	2.5	2.7 *
Length of Current Span (months)	14.3	12.7 *	14.9 *
Oct 2001 TANF Benefit Amount	\$461.47	\$459.52	\$461.03
Oct 2001 Food Stamp Benefit Amount	\$270.42	\$274.87	\$247.07 *
Total Months on TANF	21.1	19.2	21.2 *
Total Months on AFDC and TANF	42.4	37.3 *	43.9
Unearned Income	\$25.73	\$44.58 *	\$23.06
Earned Income	\$115.79	\$136.37 *	\$143.18 *
Actual Hours Worked (per week)	13.6	16.2 *	17.8 *
* Value is significantly different from Sample Frame (2001) at p< 0.05			